

I CLAIM:

1. Furniture (1) having a seating and/or reclining surface (2) and at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest connected to the former and adjustable with respect to the seating and/or reclining surface such that it can be positioned in various circumferential areas of the seating and/or reclining surface, characterized in that at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest is formed from a plurality of elements (10) connected in an articulated fashion and/or one or more elements that are flexible in the direction of adjustment and can be influenced to bend in the adjustment by the control means (12, 16, 18) such that the back rest or arm rest adapts itself essentially to the circumferential contour of the seating and/or reclining surface (2) along the adjustment path or at least along a part thereof.

2. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the seating and/or reclining surface (2) has a circumferential contour (30, 31, 32) that is both concave and convex.

3. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least one back rest or arm rest can be positioned along the entire circumference of the seating and/or reclining surface.

4. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that it has two separately positionable back rests (3, 4) or arm rests.

5. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest is formed from separate rigid parts (20) which are connected together in an articulated fashion by hinges (15) in the adjustment direction and they each form an element (10) with the respective upholstery, whereby the at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest is formed in particular by five or seven elements (10).

6. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest partially covers the seating and/or reclining surface (2).

7. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest covers the circumferential surface (5) of the seating and/or reclining surface, in particular completely.

8. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the control means (12, 16, 18) are arranged essentially below the seating surface.

9. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the control means also support the back rest (3, 4) or arm rest and support it against the forces that occur when someone leans against it.

10. Furniture according to Claim 1, characterized in that the control means include a rail (12) which determines the desired shape of bending of the back rest (3, 4) or arm rest.

11. Furniture according to Claim 10, characterized in that the rail (12) has essentially the same contour as the circumferential contour of the side face and in particular is a self-contained rail.

12. Furniture according to Claim 10, characterized in that the rail is part of the understructure of the seating and/or reclining surface and in particular forms the base of the furniture with struts (13).

13. Furniture according to Claim 12, characterized in that the control means comprise multiple carriages (16) which can be moved by sliding or rolling on a rail (12) for each back rest or arm rest, these carriages being attached to different elements (10) of the back rest or arm rest.

14. Furniture according to Claim 13, characterized in that the carriages include on both sides of the rail and above the rail, plastic sliding parts (18) in contact with the rail and in particular another sliding plastic part (19) which reaches beneath the rail.

15. Furniture according to Claim 2, characterized in that the at least one back rest or arm rest can be positioned along the entire circumference of the seating and/or reclining surface.

16. Furniture according to Claim 2, characterized in that it has two separately positionable back rests (3, 4) or arm rests.

17. Furniture according to Claim 2, characterized in that the at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest is formed from separate rigid parts (20) which are connected together in an articulated fashion by hinges (15) in the adjustment direction and they each form an element (10) with the respective upholstery, whereby the at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest is formed in particular by five or seven elements (10).

18. Furniture according to Claim 2, characterized in that at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest partially covers the seating and/or reclining surface (2).

19. Furniture according to Claim 2, characterized in that the at least one back rest (3, 4) or arm rest covers the circumferential surface (5) of the seating and/or reclining surface, in particular completely.

20. Furniture according to Claim 2, characterized in that the control means (12, 16, 18) are arranged essentially below the seating surface.